

REMARKS

In the final Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 1-3, 5-12, 21, 22, 26, 27-29, 31-34, 37, 38, and 41 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over FORD et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0289140) and DOGANATA et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0220913); and objects to claims 13-20, 23-25, 35, 36, 39, 40, 42, and 43 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Applicants respectfully traverse the above rejection.

By way of the present amendment, Applicants cancel claims 1-3, 5-10, 23, 29, 31-33, and 35-43 without prejudice or disclaimer and amend claims 11, 27, 28, and 34 to improve form. No new matter has been added by way of the present amendment. Claims 11-21, 24-28, and 34 are pending.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 13-20, 23-25, 35, 36, 39, 40, 42, and 43 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claim.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on FORD et al. and DOGANATA et al.

Pending claims 11, 12, 21, 26, 27, 28, and 34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over FORD et al. in view of DOGANATA et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

While not acquiescing in the rejection of claim 11, but merely to expedite prosecution, Applicants amend independent claim 11 to include subject matter similar to the subject matter of claim 23. Thus, Applicants submits that independent claim 11, as amended, is in condition for immediate allowance.

Claims 12-21 and 24-26 depend from independent claim 11. Therefore, these claims are in condition for immediate allowance for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 11.

While not acquiescing in the rejection of claim 27, but merely to expedite prosecution, Applicants amend independent claim 27 to include subject matter similar to the subject matter of claim 40. Thus, Applicants submits that independent claim 27, as amended, is in condition for immediate allowance.

While not acquiescing in the rejection of claim 28, but merely to expedite prosecution, Applicants amend independent claim 28 to include subject matter similar to the subject matter of claim 42. Thus, Applicants submits that independent claim 28, as amended, is in condition for immediate allowance.

While not acquiescing in the rejection of claim 34, but merely to expedite prosecution, Applicants amend independent claim 34 to include subject matter similar to the subject matter of claim 35. Thus, Applicants submits that independent claim 34, as amended, is in condition for immediate allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and the timely allowance of this application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1070 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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